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- (e) lysing said virus.
- 17. (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein said method comprises centrifugation on a sucrose gradient.
- 18. (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein said method comprises pelleting said virus.
 - 19. (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein the virus is lysed with SDS.
 - 20. (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein said lysate comprises HIV-2 RNA.
- 21. (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein said lysate comprises HIV-2 p26 antigen.
- 22. (NEW) A method for producing an HIV-2 peptide comprising cloning an HIV-2 cDNA that comprises a fragment of HIV-2 nucleic acid deposited at the C.N.C.M. under Accession No. I-627 into a vector, introducing the recombinant vector into a host cell, and expressing the HIV-2 peptide encoded by the recombinant vector,

wherein said HIV-2 fragment hybridizes to a greater extent to the genomic RNA of HIV-2 than to the genomic RNA of HIV-1 BRU under hybridization conditions of 37°C for 16 hours in 5X SSC, 5X Denhardt solution, 25% formamide, and 100 μg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA, with washes in 2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 25°C; 1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 60°C; or 0.1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 60°C.

- 23. (NEW) The method of claim 22, wherein said host cell is a bacterial cell.
- 24. (NEW) The method of claim 22, wherein said host cell is a yeast cell.
- 25. (NEW) The method of claim 22, wherein said host cell is an animal cell.
- 26. (NEW) A peptide produced by the method of claim 22.
- 27. (NEW) A peptide produced by the method of claim 23.

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